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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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STEAM ROAD FOR TORRANCE

The red flag obstructing the entrance of the Santa Fe railroad into the harbor, by way of Torrance, was removed by "a safe majority" of the voters of Los Angeles at the primary election May 1. The value to the harbor district in general and to Torrance in particular by the acquisition of this splendid trans-continental line is beyond calculation. It is a value that is cumulative in effect. Such excellent shipping facilities as this road will provide Torrance will make it easier to induce more industries to locate in this city. The beneficial influence of having competition in transportation is powerful, though subtle. Already there has been investors interested in Torrance who have frankly said the inducement was the prospect of seeing the Santa Fe railroad pass through this city. It will be the first steam road to enter the city, but with the development of our industries and the further extension of the Torrance oil fields it is evident that other steam lines will desire an entrance to our industrial city.

One of the benefits that will be quickly felt as soon as work on the extension of the Santa Fe's line to the harbor has begun, will be the stringing of the Western Union telegraph wires into Torrance. The secretary of the Chamber of Commerce has been definitely assured that it is the intention of this telegraph company to parallel the line of the new road into Torrance. The establishment of a telegraph office in this city where messages can be sent and received direct to and from all parts of the world, as well as to thousands of points in the United States, is a desirable step forward. The convenience of having a local telegraph office is of considerable value in itself to the general public as well as to the many industrial concerns requiring quick communication. This is but one incident, however, of the many benefits to be felt by Torrance as work on the new Santa Fe line progresses.

The history of railroad building in the United States is full of instances where towns were created merely on the strength of being on a railroad right-of-way. Torrance has more to build upon than one transportation line, however. But the fact is evident that real estate values will be materially stabilized the moment the whistle of a Santa Fe locomotive is heard within the city limits of Torrance. The entrance of the Santa Fe will mark a definite epoch in the history of the industrial city of Torrance.—H. M. R.

A BASEBALL DIAMOND

A definite beginning has been made to meet the urgent need of play grounds for the city. Through the co-operation of the city and public schools an athletic field is in course of construction which will care for the immediate requirements of the older boys and girls.

A part of the school grounds bordering on 218th street, two blocks west of Arlington avenue, has been selected for a baseball diamond. Under the direction of the city engineer the weeds and grass have been carefully removed and the firmness of the soil disturbed as little as possible. The ground has been scraped and leveled and a back-stop erected. A game or two has already been played on the new diamond and the boys seem well pleased with the first attempt to prepare the field. The grounds will be further improved as soon as water is provided, and the position of the diamond shifted slightly.

The grounds being converted into an athletic field lies level and above the street grade. It will occupy the space between the present high school building and the proposed auditorium on the north, and the buildings of the proposed grammar school on the south. Tennis courts are also included in the recreation plans.

The need for athletic grounds, as well as a playground for small children has been long recognized and various plans formulated to meet the requirements of the young folks. The baseball field is the first tangible result of efforts directed toward this commendable cause.

The co-operation exhibited between the city officials and the school authorities in preparing a recreation ground shows praiseworthy team-work that will be of lasting benefit to the youth of Torrance.

The athletic field is in charge of Prof. G. L. Mowry after school hours and Saturdays. While the baseball field was prepared primarily for the pupils of the public schools, any outside group of persons may use the athletic field by securing the permission of Professor Mowry.—H. M. R.

Nowadays a cow-catcher is a thing they put on locomotives to catch automobiles.

A Columbia River salmon lays 30,000 eggs. Now take this item out in the back yard and read it to the hens.

Maybe, after all, time is money. For that is about all some fellows spend.

THE "GLAD HAND"

There are many new comers locating in Torrance and more anxious to come as soon as the housing situation permits. These persons are "just folks," as much as are we. Let's meet them half-way and make them feel at home. We are all busy, but it takes but a moment to pass along the friendly smile, the cheerful word, or the hearty hand-shake that cheers a stranger in a strange city.

It matters not whether business, profession, social position, or climate, attracts these strangers to our city. There is a place for them all, without inconveniencing any of us to any serious extent. In fact, the new comer is needed and can be assimilated by our business, church, social and fraternal life.

No one coming to Torrance to make a home should be allowed to feel an outcast. There is little likelihood of such an undesirable situation arriving unless we "leave it to George" to extend the "glad hand" to new citizens. We must remember, however, that there are some sections of the West that have a reputation of being unsociable. It is no doubt true that it is more difficult to form lasting acquaintances in communities catering to the so-called "tourist" class. This deplorable condition is largely owing to the fact that residents look on new comers as persons who are here today and leaving tomorrow. This constant migration tends to prevent a desired association between established residents and strangers coming into a community.

The new comer in Torrance, as a rule, is the type who is looking forward to finding a desirable position and a permanent home. The comparatively few "tourists" will ordinarily have friends or relatives already established here. It is our duty, nevertheless, and should also be our pleasure, to show a warm interest in all classes of new comers to Torrance. A spirit of co-operation between old and new residents will be a constant force for the upbuilding of a contented industrial city. Busy as we are, we can all take the time necessary to extend the "glad hand" to new comers. We can meet the strangers with a hearty "howdy-do," and show them that we are "just folks," and that a cross-section of Torrance will reveal average human nature the equal of any community.—H. M. R.

"BOOSTED FOR CALIFORNIA"

"Our train was full of tourists returning from California, all of them were great boosters. They boosted for California as much as any California realtor ever did, and they had no real estate to sell, as far as I could learn."

This paragraph from a letter written by a person who has just gone East—with a return trip ticket—indicates one of the fundamental reasons for the continual increase in the population of California. Boosters spread optimism and are the best advertisement the state could secure for its advancement. With such moral backing, nothing short of a calamity can prevent a country developing safely as well as rapidly. They have come, they have seen with their own eyes the phenomenal growth and opportunities of this state, and now they are returning eastward to sing praises of California.

This sort of boosting is what is keeping the tide of population sweeping into the Southland. It is better than the best printed literature or the most artistically colored pictures. By word of mouth the satisfied visitor will tell friends and relatives of the advantages of California. The result will be an increase in migration to the Pacific Coast.

Three classes will be persuaded to come westward: The tourist who has time and money to spend in California, the well-to-do who is prepared to live on past efforts and is well able to buy or build his own home, and the person who has to accumulate an independence after arriving in California. We need them all. Torrance, as well as Los Angeles, will profit by these three classes of new comers.

Population creates land values and is a prerequisite to the successful conduct of all industries, the process works in a circle by industries attracting additional population. Now that the movement is well under way, the pendulum of progress will swing as far industrially as it swings population-ward. So far, Torrance has been increasing more rapidly from the standpoint of industry than population. With the thousands of boosters for California sending tens of thousands of easterners to the coast, we should increase our population to an equal with our industries. The Eastern booster is doing his cheerful part to help keep California at the head of the procession. Shall we keep step?—H. M. R.

Maybe we have a few hypocrites, but none so mean as to sprinkle gasoline on his clothing to make people believe he owns an automobile.

Perhaps they call it the "almighty dollar" because it takes an almighty lot of hustling around to get hold of 'em.

We deny the statement of an Eastern editor that America has too many laws. There is yet need of one to make writing of spring poetry punishable by hanging.

As a general rule the boy who is forbidden to whistle around the house hasn't very much reason for whistling.

Those endurance dancing tests are not only trying on the body, but they're quite a strain on the sole.

Washington announces that the plan to reduce taxes has been postponed. We thought it was too good to be true.

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